



Civil Commitment Unit

For

Sexual Offenders

Public Affairs Contact: Roger Munns (515) 281-4848 E-mail rmunns@dhs.state.ia.us

Purpose

The Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO) provides a secure, long term, and highly structured setting to treat sexually violent predators who have served their prison terms but who, in a separate civil trial, have been found likely to commit further violent sexual offenses.

Who

Established in 1999, the program has grown steadily. As of July 2008, there were 74 patients, all of them court-ordered. It is projected that admissions will grow to 84 by the end of SFY 2009 and to 92 the following year.

There are currently five patients in the fifth phase of the treatment program. No patient has completed all five phases of the treatment program, however several patients have been dismissed from the program on judicial orders or trials.

What

The CCUSO unit is a secure facility located on the campus of the Mental Health Institute at Cherokee.

The CCUSO treatment program includes:

- Group and individual therapy, including victim empathy and strategies to prevent relapse.
- Educational programming for patients who do not have the basic skills needed to fully participate in therapy.
- Physiological assessments to measure and verify results of treatment strategies.
- Transitional and discharge planning, and supervision for patients who have completed all five treatment phases, if ordered by a court.

How are we Doing?

Patients must participate in the structured program in order to advance toward eventual release. In SFY 2008, 13 percent of the average daily population of 72 patients progressed to the next treatment phase.